

JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

Chairman

Tomio Muto

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NCC ISSUES STATEMENT OPPOSING RESUMPTION OF NUCLEAR TESTS

The Executive Committee of the Japan NCC met on September 15 and issued the following statement:

We have deeply admired the arduous efforts of the United States, the Soviet Union and Great Britain in refraining from nuclear tests and maintaining a nuclear test ban, despite the perilous international situation, and we have prayed for the successful fruition of the same. However, it is extremely regretful that the Soviet Union and the United States of America have resumed their nuclear tests. We who follow Christ believe that God has created the heavens and the earth and that all men should love each other as brothers. Therefore, we are convinced that the contamination of the atmosphere by radioactive fallout, bringing suffering and strife to mankind, is in contradiction to the will of God; it is also contrary to the historical and cultural development of the human race. Consequently, we of the Japan National Christian Council express the following earnest hopes:

- 1) That the Soviet Union and the United States of America

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League of Nations in Japan Resumes its Nuclear Tests
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to be Formed
NCC Information Bureau Established
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Collection of Nakamura's Works to be Published

NCC Issues Statement Opposing Resumption of Nuclear Tests

The Executive Committee of the Japan NCC met on September 1st and issued the following statement:

We have deeply admired the arduous efforts of the United States, the United Kingdom and Great Britain in maintaining peace and maintaining a nuclear test ban, despite the religious international situation, and we have hoped for the successful fruition of the same. However, it is extremely regrettable that the Soviet Union and the United States of America have resumed their nuclear tests. We also feel that the fact that God has created the nations and the earth and that all men should love each other as brothers. Therefore, we are convinced that the continuation of the atmosphere by nuclear tests, which is contrary to the will of God, is also contrary to the historical and moral development of the human race. Consequently, we of the Japan National Christian Council express the following views:

1) That the Soviet Union and the United States of America

- will immediately cease their nuclear tests;
- 2) That Great Britain, France and other countries possessing nuclear weapons will not resume nuclear tests;
 - 3) That all other countries will refrain from holding nuclear weapons;
 - 4) That all nations possessing nuclear weapons will immediately resume negotiations to establish a nuclear test ban.

September 15, 1961

Japan National Christian Council

Takeshi Muto
Chairman

Kiyoshi Hirai
General Secretary

LEAGUE OF RELIGIONS IN JAPAN STATEMENT RE NUCLEAR TESTS

We, Japanese, who have seen with our eyes the epitome of mankind's ruin in the catastrophic destruction of Nagasaki and Hiroshima, grieve from our hearts the production of nuclear weapons, humanity's greatest common misfortune. Immediately after the Bikini Atoll tests in 1945, the League of Religions in Japan issued a statement and in December of the same year this was sent to the concerned countries in an appeal to world opinion to stop nuclear-bomb tests. Happily, the Soviet Union, the United States and Great Britain discontinued their tests and we were spared from the "death ash". However, since this summer, the Soviet Union and now the United States as well have resumed their tests, bringing a desperate anxiety to not only the Japanese but to all mankind. No matter what the reason or country, the use of nuclear weapons cannot be justified. We, all religious believers in Japan, without distinction of race, religion or polity, earnestly pray for protection of mankind and strongly urge that the concerned countries:

- 1) Immediately cease testing of nuclear weapons;
- 2) Discontinue production of nuclear weapons;

3) Stop forever the use of nuclear weapons.

September 19, 1961

LEAGUE OF RELIGIONS IN JAPAN

Sect Shinto League
All-Japan Buddhist Association
Japan Christian Federation
The Shrine Bureau
New Japan Religious Bodies League

KYODAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE PETITIONS MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Greatly concerned because scheduled public school activities on Sunday have been one of the principal reasons for a drastic decrease in the number of Sunday School students from 177,489 in 1950 to 75,930 in 1960, the Education Committee of the Kyodan decided to petition the Ministry of Education, requesting that Sunday be set aside as a religious activities day. The petition was delivered by Rev. Iwamura, chairman of the Committee.

The petition stated that inasmuch as the Sunday School activities have contributed much in the development of the spiritual and moral life of youth, aided in the reduction of delinquency and have had a great effect on the social education of young people, Sunday should be considered as a religious activities day and that school activities should not be scheduled on that day.

BIBLE DISTRIBUTION FILM TO BE PRODUCED

The Japan Bible Society, working through all denominations, Christian schools, book stores and its well organized colporter system which covers every house, distributes more than 2 million Scriptures every year, a fact which amazes those engaged in Bible distribution in other countries, because there are only some 400,000 Protestant Christians in Japan.

When the 1958 report, sent out by the Japan Bible Society, announced that 23,000 Scriptures had been distributed near the city of Hashimoto at nearby Koyasan the headquarters of the Shingon sect of Buddhism, the Canadian Bible Society, at the request of the World Bible League, desired to recreate the actual circumstances of distribution and to record this on film.

With the active cooperation of Buddhist officials and students of Koyasan, the situation was filmed with the Christian colporters of the area as the main cast.

E. J. Heuer, Secretary of the Audio-Visual Aids Department of the Canadian Bible Society, who came out for a month to

direct the filming, expressed amazement at the desire of the non-Christians for the Bible and even their willingness to help distribute. Secretary Ishikawa of the Japan Bible Society, who worked with Heuer, explained this phenomenon as being probably the result of the influence of Nestorianism on Kobo Daishi the founder of Koyasan while he was in China.

MARRIAGE INFORMATION BUREAU ESTABLISHED

To promote marriages among Christian young people, the Tokyo Kyoku (District) of the Kyodan has set up marriage information center at Nagahara Church in Tokyo. The center, under the direction of Rev. Yamamoto, pastor of Nagahara church, will be open every Saturday afternoon from 1 to 5 for Christian young people who seek guidance in finding a Christian partner.

Information and application blanks have been sent to church in the Tokyo Kyoku and the cooperation of pastors and elders is being solicited. The Tokyo Kyoku Social Committee which is sponsoring the center, believes that through such efforts more Christian homes may be established and a great advance be made in the evangelization of Japan.

According to Rev. Yamamoto, only one out of ten young people remain in the church after marriage, as most, failing to find a partner in their own church, marry non-Christians and fall away from the church.

DR. PUSEY TO SPEAK AT ICU

Dr. Nathan M. Pusey, President of Harvard University, will speak Wednesday, October 11, in International Christian University chapel on the subject "Religion in Higher Education." The meeting is open to the public.

Dr. Pusey, who will spend the day on the ICU campus, will be the guest after the chapel meeting at a luncheon at the campus home of ICU President Nobushige Ukai. Later he will meet with ICU faculty members to discuss questions pertaining to higher education.

Dr. Pusey's present trip to Japan is personal and unofficial. He is visiting several Japanese universities for study of common educational problems.

COMPLETE COLLECTION OF KAGAWA'S WORKS TO BE PUBLISHED

In commemoration of the internationally known evangelist Toyohiko Kagawa, a publication committee has been organized, with

Tokutaro Kitamura as head to gather and record the activities of Kagawa as an evangelist, social worker, novelist, politician and poet. There will be a total of 24 volumes in the total collection with the first to be published in September, 1962 and the rest to follow one a month. Applications for the complete works will be accepted until March of next year. The cost will be 20,000 yen.

